

A RESOLUTION to honor the “Downtown Franklin Association” for their outstanding efforts to preserve and promote their historic town.

WHEREAS, for more than a decade, the Downtown Franklin Association has worked wholeheartedly to ensure the preservation of and to promote one of the most historic areas in our great state; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, Franklin’s preservation community successfully lobbied for the creation of the Tennessee Main Street Program, a program that encourages and assists counties and municipalities in preserving and protecting the historic structures, areas and districts which serve as visible reminders of our history and cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, with the formation of the Downtown Franklin Association, Franklin became an official Main Street town in 1984 and embarked upon an exceptional restoration and revitalization campaign of which even a brief listing of the accomplishments is inspiring; and

WHEREAS, using Department of Interior guidelines, virtually all of Franklin’s downtown buildings have been renovated; where “space available” signs were once prominent, tenants now occupy almost all of the historically significant buildings; and

WHEREAS, the downtown association collaborated with the Heritage Foundation, building owners and merchants to provide new street and infrastructure improvements as well as new brick sidewalks, trees, benches and lighting for the refurbished area; and

WHEREAS, because of the incredible efforts of the Downtown Franklin Association, the downtown post office was protected from the risk of closure and now houses such important community interests as an archives center for historic county records and the Williamson County Arts Council; and

WHEREAS, the Downtown Franklin Association hosts three major annual festivals, which bring more than 150,000 visitors to historic Franklin and generate over \$5 million in revenue annually; and

WHEREAS, the Main Street Festival, now in its twelfth year, showcases historic downtown and provides funding for Franklin's continued revitalization; appropriately, this tremendous festival was named one of the Top 20 Events in the Southeastern United States by the Southeast Tourism Society; and

WHEREAS, Franklin's Jazz Festival draws thousands of music lovers to historic downtown each year and the Dickens of a Christmas celebration recreates Victorian street scenes, live with theater and music, each holiday season; and

WHEREAS, the association's ongoing publicity and public relations campaign has led to extensive mention of historic Franklin in local, regional, and national publications and DFA's cooperative marketing efforts with downtown merchants and building owners have been nothing less than exceptional; and

WHEREAS, for their exemplary efforts in historic preservation and promotion, the Downtown Franklin Association is especially deserving of the commendation of this General Assembly; their efforts to promote the educational, cultural and economic welfare of this historic area benefit not only Franklin and Williamson County, but also our entire state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby recognize and thank the Downtown Franklin Association for their extraordinary efforts to preserve and promote one of the most historically significant areas in our great state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.